

International Proverbs

Do not look where you fell, but where you slipped. (African)

A wise man never knows all, only fools know everything. (African)

Indecision is like a stepchild: if he does not wash his hands, he is called dirty, if he does, he is wasting water. (African)

Only a fool tests the depth of the water with both feet. (African)

Whatever accomplishment you boast of in the world, there is someone better than you. (African)

What you see in yourself is what you see in the world. (Afghanistan)

Don't show me the palm tree, show me the dates. (Afghanistan)

No one says his own buttermilk is sour. (Afghanistan)

**It's not shameful not to know, but it's shameful not to ask.
(Azerbaijan)**

Cheap meat never makes a good soup. (Azerbaijan)

Courage is ten, nine is the ability to escape. (Azerbaijan)

The earth is a beehive; we all enter by the same door but live in different cells. (Africa – Bantu)

The eye never forgets what the heart has seen. (Africa – Bantu)

A good deed will make a good neighbor. (Africa – Bantu)

No man can paddle two canoes at the same time. (Africa – Bantu)

A wise man learns at a fool's expense. (Brazil)

He who knows nothing, doubts nothing. (Brazil)

The trees with most leaves will not necessarily produce juicy fruit. (Brazil)

A man should choose a friend who is better than himself. There are plenty of acquaintances in the world; but very few real friends. (China)

A maker of idols is never an idolater. (China)

A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song. (China)

A clever person turns great troubles into little ones and little ones into none at all. (China)

A cat goes to a monastery, but she still remains a cat. (Congo - Kinshasa)

Little by little grow the bananas. (Congo - Kinshasa)

No matter how full the river, it still wants to grow. (Congo - Kinshasa)

A beautiful thing is never perfect. (Egypt)

The barking of a dog does not disturb the man on a camel. (Egypt)

People count up the faults of those who keep them waiting. (France)

Write injuries in sand, kindnesses in marble. (France)

With enough "ifs" we could put Paris into a bottle. (France)

Milk the cow, but do not pull off the udder. (Greece)

Men who have lost heart never yet won a trophy. (Greece)

Great abilities produce great vices as well as virtues. (Greece)

Don't insult the alligator until you've crossed the river. (Haiti)

If someone sweats for you, you change his shirt. (Haiti)

Ignorance doesn't kill you, but it does make you sweat a lot. (Haiti)

The cobra will bite you whether you call it cobra or Mr. Cobra. (India)

Don't bargain for fish which are still in the water. (India)

Life is a bridge. Cross over it, but build no house on it. (India)

Acquaintance without patience is like a candle with no light. (Iran)

A blind man who sees is better than a sighted man who is blind. (Iran)

Life is like a lamp flame; it needs a little oil now and then. (Persia - Kashmir)

Giving advice to a stupid man is like giving salt to a squirrel. (Persia - Kashmir)

I bought the nettle, sowed the nettle, and then the nettle stung me. (Persia - Kashmir)

Carve the peg by looking at the hole. (South Korea)

Words have no wings but they can fly many thousands of miles. (South Korea)

To bend a bamboo, start when it is a shoot. (Malaysia)

Do not measure another man's coat on your body. (Malaysia)

A fool is like the big drum that beats fast but does not realize its hollowness. (Malaysia)

It's not enough to know how to ride -- you must also know how to fall. (Mexico)

Never ask God to give you anything; ask Him to put you where things are. (Mexico)

As you see yourself, I once saw myself; as you see me now, you will be seen. (Mexico)

Instruction in youth is like engraving in stone. (Morocco)

If you don't understand it with a wink, you certainly will with a blow. (Morocco)

If you are a peg, endure the knocking; if you are a mallet, strike. (Morocco)

Turn your face to the sun and the shadows fall behind you. (New Zealand)

The block of wood should not dictate to the carver. (New Zealand)

Persist as resolutely as you persist in eating. (New Zealand)

The frog does not jump in the daytime without reason. (Nigeria)

The man being carried does not realize how far away the town really is. (Nigeria)

A tiger does not have to proclaim its tigritude. (Nigeria)

People who do not break things first will never learn to create anything. (Phillipines)

If you make a habit of buying things you do not need, you will soon be selling things you do. (Phillipines)

The rattan basket criticizes the palm leaf basket, still both are full of holes. (Phillipines)

**There is no shame in not knowing; the shame lies in not finding out.
(Russia)**

Success and rest don't sleep together. (Russia)

For him who does not believe in signs, there is no way to live in the world. (Russia)

Acknowledgement is half of correction. (Russia)

A promise is a cloud; fulfillment is rain. (Saudi Arabia)

A little and a little, collected together, becomes a great deal; the heap in the barn consists of single grains, and drop and drop makes an inundation. (Saudi Arabia)

Never let your feet run faster than your shoes. (Scotland)

Be slow in choosing a friend but slower in changing him. (Scotland)

If you don't see the bottom, don't wade. (Scotland)

**If you are looking for a fly in your food it means that you are full.
(South Africa)**

He who has no intelligence is happy with it. (South Africa)

The fool who owns an ox is seldom recognized as a fool. (South Africa)

No hill without gravestones, no valley without shadows. (South Africa)

You are not great just because you say you are. (South Africa)

There are three things which if one does not know, one cannot live long in the world: what is too much for one, what is too little for one, and what is just right for one. (Swahili Culture)

Aiming isn't hitting. (Swahili Culture)

Don't plant a seed in the sea. (Swahili Culture)

If you destroy a bridge, be sure you can swim. (Swahili Culture)

We start as fools and become wise through experience. (Tanzania)

The roaring lion kills no game. (Tanzania)

**Do not mend your neighbor's fence before seeing to your own.
(Tanzania)**

Bald people can always find a comb. (Thailand)

Life is so short we must move very slowly. (Thailand)

Wait until the tree has fallen before you jump over it. (Thailand)

**The church is near, but the way is icy. The tavern is far, but I will walk
carefully. (Ukraine)**

**Only when you have eaten a lemon do you appreciate what sugar is.
(Ukraine)**

No matter how hard you try, the bull will never give milk. (Ukraine)

No one likes to be the first to step on the ice. (Yugoslavia)

A good rest is half the work. (Yugoslavia)

**If you wish to know what a man is, place him in authority.
(Yugoslavia)**

Source: <http://creativeproverbs.com/>